



Labor Day Festival bands, p.7



Accessibility at the Festival, p.12

Teen Shakespeare Celebrates Four Seasons, Seeks New Stage

by Ellie Jornlin



PHOTO BY KATE ROBINSON

From left, Chene Barnds, Sofia Jones, Eleanor Colorco and Julia May perform in the TSSI production of *As You Like It* in July.

The Teen Shakespeare Summer Intensive (TSSI) has enjoyed four consecutive summers of sword fights, standing ovations and tragic love stories. The youth theater program has become a beloved space for Greenbelt teens.

Founded in 2022 by costume designer and theater director Kate

Robinson (profiled in the June 26, 2024, issue), the original goal of TSSI was to put on a high-quality, low-cost production that would also provide much-needed bonding for Greenbelt teens after the isolation of the pandemic.

See **SHAKESPEARE**, page 6

Preservation Plans Are Proposed For Greenbelt's Historic Cemeteries

by Bonnie Schrack

On July 23, Carolyn Gimbal of Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT), who has been contracted by the city to formulate a plan for the preservation of Greenbelt's historic cemeteries, presented their Master Preservation Plan for Hamilton, Turner and Walker cemeteries in Greenbelt. This was the first public introduction of the plan, which was funded in part by a grant matched by the city.

JMT is an employee-owned civil engineering firm offering a broad range of services in planning, design and construction. Gimbal, an architectural historian, is working with a team of various disciplines. She described them as



PHOTO BY DERMOT KELLY

Walker Cemetery

a "full service cultural resources group" that has archaeologists, historians and landscape architects on staff.

Also participating were Terri Hruby, the city's director of Planning and Community Development, and Megan Searing Young, director of the Greenbelt Museum.

Greenbelt Cemeteries

Greenbelt's three historic

See **CEMETERIES**, page 8

Longest Serving City Manager James K. Giese Dies at Age 94

by Sandra Lange

James K. Giese died on August 2, 2025, at his home in the Collington Life Care Community. Giese was 94 years old. He was born September 5, 1931, in Milwaukee, Wisc. Named Greenbelt's fourth city manager in 1962 when he was 32 years old, he remained in that position for more than 29 years.

Although Giese learned about planned communities in the eighth grade and council-manager forms of government at Beloit College, he did not know Greenbelt's history before he applied for the city manager job. He earned a master's degree in public administration from Kansas University. His prior management experience was in the finance department of the City of Kenosha, Wisc., and as assistant city manager of Western Springs, Ill., near Chicago.

From the beginning, he discovered that county planners



PHOTO COURTESY NEWS REVIEW FILES

Jim Giese

had drawn up a new Greenbelt/College Park Master Plan which showed the city's population growing from nearly 7,500 to 50,000. Massive apartment complexes were proposed. Springhill Lake Apartments (now Franklin

Park) were under construction. Within five years, nearly 10,000 new residents occupied 2,900 apartments. The city's population today hovers around 25,000 according to the 2020 U. S. census.

Former city manager Mike McLaughlin recalls that Greenbelt was the center of new development in Prince George's County from the 1960s through the 1980s. Greenbelt's location, available land and city services created a popular location for developers, he stated.

Giese often worked late in his office while he considered alternatives to large-scale development. He prepared detailed reports for city council, advisory boards, staff and residents to build understanding and consensus on controversial projects. Gradually, developers learned to modify their plans to satisfy the

See **GIESE**, page 4

City Council Nominations Open Monday; Noncitizens May Run

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday, August 18, the period in which to file as a candidate for Greenbelt City Council will begin. Any qualified voter who is at least 18 years of age is eligible to run. Beginning this year, that includes noncitizens.

All-Resident Voting

In the last election the question of allowing noncitizens who meet residency requirements to vote appeared on the ballot as an advisory question. Fifty-nine percent of voters responded yes, 30 percent responded no and 11 percent did not respond. In September, council voted unanimously (6 to 0 with Councilmember Silke Pope absent) to amend the city's charter to allow noncitizens to vote in city elections (see the September 26, 2024, issue). Since all eligible voters over 18 may run for election to city council, that now includes noncitizens, too.

Noncitizen Candidates

Steve Gilbert of the city's Board of Elections confirmed to

the News Review this week that noncitizens are eligible to run. They must first register to vote with the city clerk and meet the other requirements to run for city office, said Gilbert. He noted that the matter came up for discussion in council. Councilmember Kristen Weaver indicated that noncitizens would be able to run for election and no one disagreed with her, said Gilbert, who also noted that council did not have to take action on the issue.

How to Run

Any eligible resident wishing to run for council should file a petition at the office of the city clerk, signed by 50 or more voters, as well as a written acceptance of nomination. The deadline to file a nomination petition is Monday, September 22 by 5 p.m. For more information, email the city clerk or call 301-474-8000 and visit greenbeltmd.gov/189/Run-For-City-Council, where forms are available for download.



PHOTO BY NICK HALL

Volunteers gather on Sunday, August 10, to contribute to a mosaic sculpture for Braden Field. See page 12.

What Goes On

Monday, August 18 to Friday, August 22
City Council Summer Recess:
no meetings

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

Letters to the Editor

Perseverance Paid Off

We were glad see that President Trump’s Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy has canceled funding for the superconducting magnetic levitation train project (maglev – “the project”), effectively stopping it. In announcing the cancellation Duffy states that significant community opposition to the project was a factor.

We believe this opposition was significant because it came from many communities working together to stop the project. We worked with concerned residents and groups from all of these communities. Many residents expressed their feelings about the project in handwritten letters and in our online petition. It appears our collective perseverance has paid off.

We (Greenbelt Advocates) announced our Campaign to Stop the Maglev in the November 9, 2017, edition of the Greenbelt News Review. Greenbelt Advocates events yielded hundreds of handwritten letters which we mailed to elected officials. We also collected thousands of verified signatures on our online petition.

The project would have forever changed the character of our neighborhoods. The recent decision by Duffy to stop the project was influenced by people working together to stop it.

Brian and Donna Almquist

Pleased

I was pleased to read about the discussion of ranked-choice

voting (RCV) in the July 24 issue of the News Review. RCV allows a fairer representation of the electorate’s opinions. If my own preferred candidate is eliminated early, I know that my support can be transferred to the second-best candidate, and so on.

But I was surprised that monotonicity (or the lack thereof) in RCV was seen as a point of confusion and suspicion by some voters. Yes, it’s possible that someone with a modest lead in the first round of counting could be overtaken in later rounds due to transferred votes, but isn’t that the point? If we wanted the results of an election under the new system to be identical to those under the current system, why would we bother changing?

Bernard Kelly

Kudos to UMD Journalism Interns

This is to compliment Ellie Jornlin and Will Hammann for their excellent front-page coverage of two issues of great importance to Greenbelt residents.

In Medicaid Anniversary Forum Warns of Deep Cuts to Come, Jornlin deftly handled the July 30 town hall meeting held in the Greenbelt City Council chambers and provided a wealth of background information and relevant quotes. In BARC Closure Plans Remain Unclear after Senate Hearing, Hammann followed up on his July 31 feature on the closing of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Both reporters included lots of

See **LETTERS**, page 11

Correction

In last week’s front-page notice of the death of James K. Giese, the date of death was incorrect. Giese died on Saturday, August 2, 2025.

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always \$7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!
After 5 PM: adults \$10, kids \$7,
senior/student/military \$9

Before 5 PM:
general admission \$8, kids \$6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
AUGUST 15th - 21st

Highest 2 Lowest (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (133 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 7:50 PM
Mon. 3:00 PM (OC), 6:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM
Tue. 7:15 PM
Wed. 7:40 PM
Thurs. 7:00 PM

Shoshana (NR)
(CC) (DVS) (2023) (121 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC), 5:15 PM
Tue. 7:30 PM
Wed. 5:20 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:15 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM
Mon. 4:30 PM, 7:15 PM

Mr. Peabody & Sherman
(PG) (2014) (90 mins)
Sensory-Friendly Screening
- FREE
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 1:00 PM

Storytime on Screen - Free!
In partnership with the Prince
George’s County Memorial Library
System
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM
Mon. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Pavements
(NR) (2024) (128 mins)
Summer Concert Series
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Wed. 8:00 PM

Wall-E (G) (2008) (98 mins)
School’s Out Series - FREE
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 1:00 PM



- Roseanne Douglas

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

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15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
Phone: 301-474-4131

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985

Mary Lou Williamson, Editor
Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

STAFF

Matt Arbach, Ann Bauman, Kathryn Beard, Anna Bedford-Dillow, Laura Bonkosky, Jerry Bonnell, Letty Bonnell, Alan Burt, Rasheeda Childress, Maurice Crawford, Deanna Dawson, Christine Doran, Joan Estenson, Anne Gardner, Elizabeth Gardner, Jon Gardner, Oliver Gaycken, Ian Gleason, Patrick Gleason, Angie Gordon, Carol Griffith, Kyla Hanington, Amy Hansen, Erik Hanson, Michael Hartman, Butch Hicks, Peggy Higgins, Donna Hoffmeister, Erica Johns, Jeff Jones, Tom Jones, Jennifer Jurling, Lesley Kash, Elisabeth Kevorkian, Amina Khalifa, Sandra Lange, Amanda Larsen, Linda Lucas, Charlene MacAdams, Marc Manheimer, Anne Marigza, Cathie Meetre, Mary Moien, Diane Oberg, Julie Rapp, Peter Reppert, Joe Robbins, Sandy Rodgers, Ian Blackwell Rogers, Lois Rosado, Richard Roth, Bonnie Schrack, Pat Scully, Bonnie Seaton, David Shapiro, Mary Sies, Melissa Sites, Lola Skolnik, Christopher Stark, Beth Terry, Daniel Thies, Nancy Tolzman, Jeff Travis, Mary Lou Williamson, Janice Wolf, Ray Zammuto and Michael Zeliff.

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Highest 2 Lowest

When a titan music mogul (Denzel Washington), widely known as having the “best ears in the business,” is targeted with a ransom plot, he is jammed up in a life-or-death moral dilemma. Washington and Spike Lee reunite for the fifth in their long working relationship for a reinterpretation of the great filmmaker Akira Kurosawa’s crime thriller High and Low, now played out on the mean streets of modern-day New York City. “Denzel: he’s one name now. He can do no wrong,” said critic Roger Friedman of Showbiz 411. “Even with Jeffrey Wright seriously trying to pull attention as the second banana, Denzel knows to pay out his charms slowly. By the time he builds to a crescendo, you see what greatness on film can be.”

Shoshana

In this edge-of-your-seat thriller inspired by real events, a British police officer and a Jewish woman fall in love amidst the political turmoil of 1930s Tel Aviv. With British control over Palestine precarious and conflict inevitable, everyone is forced to choose a side. This film is from acclaimed director Michael Winterbottom (The Trip, A Mighty Heart). Said critic Sergio Burstein of the Los Angeles Times, “In addition to boasting an impressive production design, it is beautifully filmed.”

Mr. Peabody & Sherman

Mr. Peabody (Ty Burrell), the most accomplished canine in the world, and his boy, Sherman (Max Charles), use a time machine called the WABAC to embark on outrageous adventures.

Pavements

This documentary about the rock group Pavement isn’t just a story about a band, it’s a story about mankind. Said critic Tara Brady of the Irish Times, “Alex Ross Perry’s Pavements is a love letter, a mischievous jape and a deconstructed rock documentary all at once, a brilliantly unclassifiable salute to the 1990s indie-rock legends.”

Wall-E

WALL-E, short for Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-class, is the last robot left on Earth. He spends his days tidying up the planet, one piece of garbage at a time. But over 700 years, he has developed a personality, and is more than a little lonely. Then he spots EVE, a sleek and shapely probe sent back to Earth on a scanning mission. Smitten, WALL-E embarks on an adventure when he follows EVE across the galaxy.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library’s regular hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes

Friday, August 15, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13749406.

Wednesday, August 20, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13749351.

Thursday, August 21, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13749383.

Bibliobop Dance Party

Saturday, August 16, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5. Bust a move and shake the sillies out. Bring parents or caregivers and prepare to boogie and bop. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13749274.

Storytime on Screen

Sunday, August 17 and Monday, August 18, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 5, at the Greenbelt Cinema. Greenbelt Cinema, in partnership with PGCMLS, is offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13749304 (Sunday) or pgcmls.info/event/13749305 (Monday).

STEM-tastic

Tuesday, August 19, 4 p.m., ages 8 to 12. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. This month’s theme is Brain Flakes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13742344.

Fresh Voices Open Mic

Tuesday, August 19, 4 p.m., ages 13+ (Teen/Adult). An all-ages open mic for poets, storytellers and listeners, hosted by Dialect Poets of Prince George’s County. Experience the power of the spoken and written word as renowned poet Patrick Washington curates a space for expression. Features Prince George’s County Youth Poet Laureate and Teen Poet Ambassadors. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13287221.

Ride and Read

Thursday, August 21, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Get some physical activity while at the library. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Hoopla to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13730984.

Rotary Club Hosts Disaster Aid USA

The Greenbelt Rotary Club is sponsoring a presentation about local nonprofit Disaster Aid USA (DAUSA). DAUSA Vice President Bill DuBoyce will speak about its national and worldwide disaster aid and relief mission on Thursday, August 14 at the Greenbelt Community Center, room 114. DAUSA was founded in 2010 by the Rotary Club of Prince George’s County to respond to disasters across the country and the world. It stages trailers and equipment across the United States, ready to respond to hurricanes, wildfires, floods and more. Responses in 2025 have included western Maryland and Texas floods and California wildfires. DAUSA teams remove debris, use chain saws, pump water from basements, clean homes, tarp roofs, and provide meals, supplies and more, free to affected residents. Refreshments and conversation will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the 7 p.m. presentation. The Club meets every Thursday at the Greenway Center IHOP at 8 a.m., except the second Thursday of the month when club members host this evening speaker series.



Dena Kohn Scholarship Mini-Golf Event

On Sunday, September 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Dena Kohn Theatre Lab Scholarship Fund will hold a miniature golf event as a fundraiser and celebration of the life of lifelong Greenbelter Dena Kohn, who died just before her 23rd birthday.

Each year, her life and spirit of giving are celebrated and commemorated by a fundraiser for the Dena Kohn Memorial Scholarship which provides scholarships each summer to teenagers in financial need to participate in the Theatre Lab’s Musical Theatre Institute for teens.

The event will be held at Columbia SportsPark, 5434 Harpers Farm Road, Columbia. Attendees can buy baked goods from a Greenbelt baker and original pottery by a Greenbelt potter at the event. Those wishing to sponsor a hole, play a round, make a donation or ask questions can call Niki Kohn at 301-474-8423 or email nikiekohn@gmail.com.



Retro Town Fair Returns



An entry from the Retro Town Fair 2024

The Greenbelt Museum will be hosting the Retro Town Fair again on Sunday, August 31 at the Museum grounds at 10 Crescent Road. It has been a fabulous growing year, and we can’t wait to see all the gorgeous produce and more.

Categories and hours are the same as last year, with drop-offs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Judging will be done from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The public will be welcome to come in at 1 p.m. and admire the handiwork and talents of their Greenbelt neighbors and friends.

The Retro Town Fair was started in 2012, on the occasion of Greenbelt’s 75th Anniversary. It is an homage to the Town Fairs that were held in early Greenbelt at the behest of the new residents eager to show off their gardening prowess. It is all in good fun and works as a community building experience. Ribbons are awarded and bragging rights will last forever. The fair accepts needlework, baked goods, canned goods, home grown produce, crafts, flowers and more. Check the website, Greenbeltmuseum.org, for entry forms and more information. See everyone at the fair!



Creative Kids Camp Musical on August 15

Greenbelt Recreation’s Creative Kids Camp invites community members to attend a free, family-friendly performance on Friday, August 15 at 10 a.m. at the Community Center. See campers ages 6 to 12 and select staffers perform Memory Quest in Central Park, an original musical written and directed by Chris Cherry, Greenbelt Recreation’s performing arts coordinator. A group of cousins explore the famous park, hoping to retrieve memories for their grandmother, who has become frail and forgetful. The young explorers visit their grandmother’s favorite places in the park, including the Carousel, the Bethesda Fountain, Belvedere Castle, the Chess and Checkers House and the Conservatory Water, with additional stops at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the outdoor Delacorte Theatre, where they see actors rehearse for a performance of Shakespeare Under the Stars. For free tickets, visit the Community Center business office or call 301-397-2208.

City of Greenbelt arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and the Maryland National-Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Financial Literacy Class and Giveaway

Favor’s Table presents Financial Literacy Class – Wealth Creation, Protection and Wealth Transfer, on Saturday, August 16, from 3:30 to 4 p.m. The venue is 6215 Greenbelt Road, Room 205 That’s the second floor of the tall building beside McDonald’s. This class is for adults who have not attended the class before. Text 202-468-2049 to sign up by Friday, August 15. Confirm you will attend so they can make bags of food for you. They will be giving away food, clothes, bras, and shoes at the end of class.

Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

August 20 – Birthday Celebration. The Golden Age Birthday Potluck Luncheon Committee is presenting the August event. Bring a dish to share. Birthday celebrants, be ready to tell your story.

August 27 – Bingo

Playground Plogging: Safe & Sparkly Spaces

Plogging is a wacky way of saying “picking up litter while jogging or walking,” invented by Swedish outdoorsman and environmentalist Erik Ahlstrom. Plogging is an ecofriendly and healthy exercise. It is an opportunity to take action and help prevent stormwater pollution by cleaning up litter from streams and stormwater ponds.

On Labor (of love) Day Weekend – Friday, August 29, through Monday, September 1 – Greenbelt Plogs, a RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) initiative, will be cleaning up the approximately 40 city playgrounds across Greenbelt, making them safe and sparkly. Those interested should email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com and let him know where they’ll be plogging or ask where ploggers are needed so as to coordinate efforts and spread the wealth of engagement.



Greenbelt Chess Club Next Meetings

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, August 19 and 26 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the club’s mailing list, go to tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Get Ready for the 21st Annual

Utopia Film Festival

October 17th - October 20th, 2025

UtopiaFilmFestival.org

UtopiaFilmFest20770@gmail.com

A Project of
Greenbelt Access
Television

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt, 1995-2025!

BECOME A MEMBER!*

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113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight;
Sunday, 9am – 9pm

TH 8/14	FRI 8/15	SAT 8/16	SUN 8/17	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Ayreheart 7-9pm Magical blend of lute, bass, violin and percussion	Just Stones 8 - 11pm A musical tribute to the Rolling Stones that will please fans and the “layfan”	POETRY, 11a - 1p (NEW TIME) BACK ROOM CLOSED, 2-6pm The Rousabouts 8 - 11pm A fresh take on the blues and roots music	Grateful Sunday w/ Stealing Liberty 6 - 8pm Electric ensemble music of the Dead and kindred artists	
MON 8/18	TUES 8/19	WED 8/20	TH 8/21	New Deal Cafe
REEL AND MEAL 6:30-9pm A monthly film series on social justice issues	NDC Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire 6 - 9:30pm Sign-ups at 6pm Play music, read poetry...	PUB QUIZ 7 - 9pm Bring a team or form one on the spot. Can you beat the previous week's winners?	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm The Classic Jam w/ The Low Rent Quartet 6:30-9:30pm Jam with the band!	IT'S THE CAFE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY! Visit our donations page to help fund our October celebration festival!

*Join NDC! Go to NewDealCafe(dot) com, click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

DON'T FORGET TO TIP THE BANDS!

Obituaries

GIESE continued from page 1

city. Despite ongoing disputes, Giese focused on achieving his management objectives and received numerous professional awards.

During those challenging years, he refrained from involvement in public or political matters. He didn't attend meetings other than those sponsored by the city. He shunned political gatherings and refused to declare any political affiliation.

From the beginning of his tenure, he sought to professionalize city operations. He was determined to establish a model police department. When he began his job as city manager, the police department had six officers. When he retired, the department consisted of 50 racially diverse, trained uniformed officers.

He declared that the construction of Green Ridge House was his most challenging job. The federal government financed the housing project for low-income seniors while the city would own and operate it. However, cost overruns threatened the project. "Fortunately, all ended well," Giese said in a presentation before Collington residents.

Greenbelt lacked a professional planner until the late 1980s. With the aid of a dedicated staff, Giese managed construction projects that included a police station, public works facility, senior housing, recreation centers, an indoor pool, ballfields and playgrounds. His guidance helped facilitate the relatively "smooth development of Greenbelt East," McLaughlin said.

Achievements

Giese was recognized for his commitment and professionalism throughout the area, as a city manager sought out by his peers for advice and extolled for the highest standards of honesty and loyalty. During his long career with the City of Greenbelt, Giese received many awards.

- President of the Maryland City Management Association within two years of coming to Greenbelt in 1962
- Selected to be in the first group of 102 members of the International City Management Association (ICMA)
- Awarded membership in the Academy for Professional Development
- Worked with ICMA from 1972 to 1974 on growth and environmental issues, as well as revenue sharing
- Awarded a lifetime membership in ICMA
- Chaired the Council of Government's Chief Administrative Officers Committee
- Served as president of the City and Town Administrators of the Maryland Municipal League from 1976 to 1977
- Received the Governor's Citation for outstanding service in 1983 after completing 20 years as Greenbelt's city manager
- Received the Greenbelt Lions Club International Medal of Merit for 25 years of distinguished service.
- Received an award from the City and Town Association in 1991, calling him the Dean of City Managers.

Greenbelt's First Four City Managers

Roy S. Braden – 1937-1943
James T. Gobbel – 1943-1948
Charles T. McDonald – 1948-1962
James K. Giese – 1962-1991

Giese strongly supported the establishment of the Greenbelt Museum through the city's purchase of an original home at 10-B Crescent Road. As his friend Kathy Reynolds said, "He knew Greenbelt history like the back of his hand."

He was proud of his role in preparing the application that resulted in all the original Greenbelt homes and remaining undeveloped land being included on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Later Greenbelt was designated a National Planning Landmark. He applauded the team effort that included the members of city council, employees and residents who helped him realize these achievements.

He welcomed the children of staff members who visited their moms in city offices after school. McLaughlin commented, "Being family friendly was not a stated city policy, but Greenbelt was his family."

After retiring in 1991, Giese joined the staff of the News Review and later became a board member. While he was recognized for his analyses of urban affairs and political elections, he particularly enjoyed writing about Greenbelt's early history

as a planned community. He also volunteered as a docent, leading tours at the Greenbelt Museum. In 2010, he was named Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen for his contributions to the community after he retired.

It was at the News Review office that he got to know another longtime Greenbelter, Bernina (Bernie) McGee. Both enjoyed editing and proofreading. They married, in what some have described as a joyful ceremony, on March 21, 1998. They traveled often and were active in the Greenbelt Community Church. In 2009, after living in Greenbelt for 40 years, they moved from their single-family home on Maplewood Court to a cottage in Collington in Mitchellville.

Greenbelter Kathy Reynolds remembers the many social outings Jim and Bernie hosted with their friends. Some of the ladies called themselves "Giese's Golden Girls." She and other family and friends will miss the stories he wrote about his family and life experiences that he sent to them every Saturday.

For much of his life, Giese

See GIESE, page 11

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
www.myholycross.org
Sunday Worship: 9:30 A.M.
Bible Study: 11:15 A.M.

Thursday Thrift Store
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on  facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Season of Rest



St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

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10:15 AM for Worship**



www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

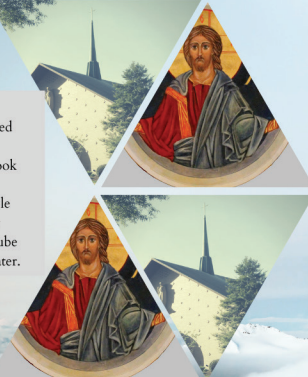
We Are an Open and Affirming Church

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org



Dalisay Lopez



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Dalisay Lopez

Longtime Greenbelt resident Dalisay Lopez died on August 11, 2025, at the age of 94. She was born in the Philippines and moved to the U.S. in 1971. After becoming a naturalized citizen in 1980, she moved to Greenbelt. In New York, Dalisay worked creating elaborate design projects. Later she achieved a college degree in business administration and worked as a bookkeeper at the University of Maryland for many years. She retired in 2000

at age 69. She was very active at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church as a member of the Sodality and as a catechist. Dalisay was much appreciated in the community.

Visitation will be Wednesday, August 20 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Borgwardt Funeral Home, 4400 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, and a funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, August 21 at 10 a.m. at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church.





Our condolences to the family and friends of Dalisay Lopez, who died at the age of 94 on August 11. Her devotion to the St. Hugh's community was greatly appreciated.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



"Think ye at all times of rendering some service to every member of the human race." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!

**A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community**
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
[CCGI985+owner@groups.io](https://ccgi985+owner@groups.io)

The Bible Says...
Wait for the Lord;
Be strong and let your heart take courage;
Yes, wait for the Lord.
Psalm 27:14

**Sunday Worship Services**
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Rd.)
MCFcc.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation

**10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770**
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
August 17, 2025, at 3 p.m.

Nikki Giovanni: Her Artistry, Her Life, Her Times
PBUUC Worship Associate Team

How do we live a life that is Spiritually Audacious? Nikki Giovanni challenged norms, spoke truth to power, and pursued justice with conviction. As a poet, writer, commentator, activist and educator, she taught us much about having a bold, fearless approach to life.

Join us in appreciating the richness of her life, her work, and her audacious spirit.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD





City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR AUGUST 18-22

Modnay, August 18, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL SUMMER RECESS**

Tuesday, August 19 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**, *On the Agenda: Acknowledgement of Black August, AARN Updates, Website Update, Small Group Update, August 30 Information Day Coverage, How RC Engages with Each Other in Public-Group Agreements, Public Comment*

Wednesday, August 20, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL SUMMER RECESS**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

UPCOMING NATURE EVENTS

Gardening Get Togethers. Every Wednesday through October, 10am-12pm. *Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent.* Join City Staff and Community Members as we work to maintain the Pollinator Gardens at Buddy Attick Park! Activities will include mulching, weeding, and planting native perennial species. [Sign-up](#) here.

Kayaking on Greenbelt Lake at Buddy Attick Park. Saturday, August 23, 8am-12pm, *Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent.*

Birding 101. Saturday, September 6, 10am-1pm, *Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent.* Have you ever wanted to try birding but don't know where to begin? We will go over keys to bird identification, choosing and using binoculars, as well as using different mobile apps in the field. [Sign-up](#) today!

National Public Lands Day. Saturday, September 27, 10am-1pm. *Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent.* Join the City of Greenbelt's Department of Public Works and Park Rangers as we care for and celebrate the public lands we share! [Sign-up](#) here.

Questions & comments to kdricoll@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2168.

★ ★ ★

LABOR DAY RECREATION ACTIVITIES
Friday, August 29-Sunday August 31
Youth Center & Braden Field

★ ★ ★

Games and fun for all ages. Begins Friday at 6pm with an adult table tennis tournament! Saturday & Sunday there are events for the entire family such as balloon waddle race, a pie eating contest (*Mayor Jordan is the reigning champion!*), sack race, cornhole tournament, and so much more.

Learn more at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar or email asesay@greenbeltmd.gov.

DFA Northern Prince George's County Presents FREE WEBINARS Thursdays at 7 pm, Zoom

These webinars are offered by the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program and begin at 7pm via GoTo Webinar.

- Sept 11:** Enhancing Communication with a Person with Dementia
- Sept 25:** When Words Fade: Caring for Someone with Dementia
- Oct 9:** Brain Health
- Oct 23:** Medicare Options for 2026
- Nov 6:** When is it More than Forgetfulness
- Nov 13:** A Deep Dive Into The Five Dementias

For more information or to register, contact Brendy Maddox at (202) 670-6497 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

SENIOR DAY AT SPRINGHILL LAKE RECREATION CENTER Friday, September 19 at 11 am *Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane*

Join us as we kick off exciting new senior programs at Springhill Lake Recreation Center with a fun and informative day just for you! Enjoy games of Bingo, discussion on foods that fight cancer, an Ageless Grace exercise session, and more.

All are welcome to attend. Free, light refreshments will be served. Come connect, learn, and have a great time!

For more information, contact Priya Gardner Lemieux at (240) 542-2056 or via email at pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:

- FREE MONTHLY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION.** Greenbelt Residents Only. First time participants must provide proof of residency, state-issued ID, birth certificate (or copy) for each child. Contact bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov or call (202) 670-6497.
- AGING SOLO.** Sept 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 1-2:30pm on Zoom. Learn to set priorities, build your support network, and put your plans into action. Contact bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov or call (202) 670-6497.
- PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION** at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, Lower Level Parking Lot, 25 Crescent Road
- Produce Distribution** at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (*Greenbelt West Residents Only*)



70TH ANNUAL GREENBELT LABOR DAY FESTIVAL! Friday, August 29-Monday September 1 *Roosevelt Center, 131 Centerway*

Join us this Labor Day Weekend for the 70th Annual Greenbelt Labor Day Festival! Opening ceremonies begin Friday night where the winner of the Greenbelt Citizen of the Year will be announced. Enjoy food trucks, bingo, carnival rides, and more all weekend long. The event culminates with the Labor Day Festival Parade on Monday, September 1 as floats make their way from the Greenbelt Police Department to the Municipal Building at 25 Crescent Road.

Ride Vouchers

\$20 wristband vouchers are on sale at Greenbelt Co-op, now through August 28. These vouchers are exchanged for a wristband for unlimited rides from opening until 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Buy before they go up to \$35!

Find out more at greenbeltlaborday.com!



FREE SENIOR PLANET CLASSES - MEDIA & HEALTH For adults 60+. FREE. In-Person, Mondays, 11am-12:30pm *Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Rd*

- September 8.** Tech Tips for Disaster Preparedness
- September 22.** Navigating Medicare Resources
- October 6.** Managing Online Privacy

Register: bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov | (202) 670-6497.

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION DATES & DEADLINES: 2025 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

First day to receive papers and file nomination petition	8/18
Last day to file nomination petition (by 5pm)	9/22
Date of drawing for placement on ballot – 7pm	9/22
First Interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12pm)	9/26
First day to send out mail-in ballots	10/3
Last day to register to vote (must be received by 4:30pm Upper Marlboro)	10/6
Second Interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12pm)	10/24
Early Voting begins .	11/1-11/2
Training session for Election Judges and Clerks	11/3
Election 7am-8pm	11/4
Mail-in ballots must be received by 6pm	11/4
Final Contributions & Expenditures Report (12pm)	11/7
Charter Meeting for swearing-in at 7:30pm	11/10

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000 or e-mail banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION NOMINATIONS FOR 2025 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

In accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter, a regular election will be held in the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, to elect the seven members of the City Council.

Any qualified voter of the City may be nominated for the office of Member of Council upon filing a nomination petition with the City Clerk (signed by not fewer than 50 Greenbelt resident voters), a written acceptance of the nomination, and other statements that are required by the City Charter or by law. Required forms and information are available at 25 Crescent Road, beginning Monday, August 18, from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm.

NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM MONDAY, AUGUST 18 THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025.

For additional information, call Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000, or e-mail banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

LET'S DANCE!

Sunday, August 17 at 6 pm
Roosevelt Center, 131 Centerway

Join us for an end of the summer line dancing event! For more information, contact Priya Gardner Lemieux at pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2056.

BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR FOR GREENBELT FAMILIES Tuesday, August 19 from 10 am - 1 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Join us for a fun and resource-packed Back to School Health Fair! Must be a Greenbelt resident.

To register, contact Brendy Garcia at bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

OPEN COMPUTER LAB FOR ALL GREENBELT ADULTS 1st & 3rd Monday of Each Month *Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road*

Need computer access? Visit our free lab at the Greenbelt Community Center. Every Wednesday & 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Weekly sign-up required as spots are limited.

Register: bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov | (202) 670-6497.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

8th Annual Community Cuts for Kids. Sunday, August 17, 2-6pm, *Springhill Lake Recreation Center.* Please join The Burton and Craig Shields Foundation for the 8th Annual Community Cuts for Kids (#CCFK)! Children will be able to register for a free haircut/styling. There will be free food, entertainment, community resources, and school supplies. To register for a haircut or hairstyling, please visit: <https://www.thecraigshieldsfoundation.org/ccfk-2025-dmvy-registrations>.

FEATURED PET - JUNIOR

Ready for Adoption? Call (301) 474-6124.

Six-year-old Junior has been in a foster home for almost a year and is still looking for a forever home! Junior (now affectionately nicknamed Juni) has insulin-dependent diabetes, but he doesn't let that slow him down. While administering an insulin shot might seem scary, Junior takes his medicine like a champ. Junior's foster says he's a gentle soul. He's super affectionate and loves to be wherever the household action is. His favorite activity is sitting by the door or window and watching the local wildlife and ongoing outside (he's a great neighborhood watch). He also gets along with everyone he meets — including his cat and dog foster siblings!



If interested, call (301) 474-6124 or email animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov!

COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCY PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING Wednesday, August 20 at 7 pm

Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

The City of Greenbelt has partnered with engineering firm LimnoTech to develop a Community Flood Resiliency Plan for the City. We are hosting a community meeting on August 20 at 7 pm in the council chambers to engage with community members, discuss problem areas around the city, and share experiences with increased rainfall and the challenges our city has faced.



To further inform the plan, LimnoTech has created a survey to identify areas of concern and gather additional information. The survey link is available below, and we encourage community members to participate: <https://arcq.is/0zu4K11>.

Contact Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdricoll@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2168.

PINK PANTRY

The Pink Pantry provides free menstrual products to Greenbelt residents, including pads, tampons, and wipes from trusted brands like Cora, Always, Rael, HoneyPot, and more!

To receive these products, register by contacting Brendy Garcia at (202) 670-6497 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Charter Review Task Force, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx.

Creative Kids Camp Performs Memory Quest in Central

Park. 8/15 at 10am, *Greenbelt Community Center.* A group of young cousins explore the famous park, hoping to retrieve memories for their grandmother. For FREE tickets, visit the Greenbelt Community Center business office or call (301) 397-2208.

Fall Registration Opens Soon.

Sign up for classes, workshops, and special activities for everyone. Registration for Greenbelt residents starts at 10 am on 8/18. Non-resident registration starts at 10am 8/25. Fall session begins September 8.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- Parents Night Out**
Upcoming on 8/29 and 9/12, 5-8:30pm.
- Labor Day** Enjoy a new exhibit and hands-on activities in the Art Gallery while visiting the Festival! Volunteer to be a gallery greeter/activity host: sign up at <http://bit.ly/4mb3u0C>
- September Artful Afternoons** 9/7 (*Greenbelt Community Center*) and 9/14 (*Springhill Lake Recreation Center*) Advanced sign-up recommended.

TAKE CONTROL TO REDUCE SCAMS: CHOOSE YOUR TOOLS OF EMPOWERMENT

Learn how to spot and reduce scams, increase your cyber awareness, and discover tools to protect your personal information. Presented by Aileen Kroll, a long-time advocate for seniors and persons with disabilities. Aileen has served as a dedicated social worker and, after attending law school, has continued her advocacy through legal and community support.

Together, we'll explore how to support one another and build a stronger, more informed community.

Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux at pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov or via email at (240) 542-2056.

CAREGIVER NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Your feedback will help us better understand your needs and how we can support you. Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/4e5F6ds to get started! **The deadline to complete the survey is September 3.**

For more information, contact Brendy Garcia at (202) 670-6497 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

Brought to you by Dementia Friendly America, The Maryland Umbrella Group, Prince George's County Health Department, and the City of Greenbelt.

Reel and Meal

Silent Fallout: How Nuclear Testing Poisoned America

by Donna Hoffmeister

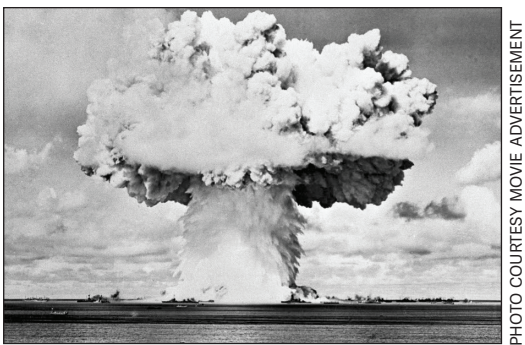


How many people are aware that nuclear bomb tests conducted in Nevada during the 1950s and '60s spread radioactive contamination across the entire United States? The acclaimed 2023 documentary Silent Fallout uncovers how radioactive particles from 101 atomic bomb tests blanketed the country, leading to cancer, other acute illnesses and death. One of the most alarming culprits: Strontium-90, a cancer-causing isotope that settled on grass, was eaten by cows and ended up in milk – milk that kids drank in cities like Detroit and St. Louis. The film uncovers a little-known 1959 study out of St. Louis that analyzed over 61,000 baby teeth and found Strontium-90 levels 50 times higher than before testing began.

Although the Atomic Energy Commission publicly denied the health risks, concerned mothers and other activists galvanized public opposition to nuclear testing. On November 1, 1961, 50,000 women in 60 cities staged a nationwide protest demanding an end to atmospheric nuclear testing. Just two years later, Dr. Louise Reiss – the woman behind the baby tooth study – got a call from President John F. Kennedy. Because of public pressure and scientific evidence, Kennedy signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty later that year, banning above-ground nuclear tests.

Silent Fallout also traces the devastating impact of nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. In 1952, the U.S. exploded its first hydrogen bomb there – 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The fallout was so intense that traces from those tests still show up today ... in honey collected on the East Coast.

Timed to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, Silent



Silent Fallout traces the ongoing impacts of nuclear atmospheric testing by the United States.

Fallout shines a harsh light on America's nuclear past. It invites viewers to reflect on that history and the lack of governmental transparency and accountability. "The bombs that got us were the bombs of our own government. It was a nuclear war and we were its victims," one interview subject says at the beginning of the film. "It was like being punched in the gut to think my own government did this ... and lied about it for years," she added.

The film will be shown at the New Deal Café on Monday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m., with a post-screening discussion led by the film's director, Hideaki Ito. Note that the film has an earlier-than-usual start time of 6:30 p.m. While the film is free, the Café has a dinner menu with several plant-based options available for purchase. Those unable to attend in person can register to watch via Zoom at tinyurl.com/RnMAug2025.

Park and Ride Free Bus For Labor Day Festival

Avoid parking problems at this year's Labor Day Festival. Park at Greenbelt Elementary or Eleanor Roosevelt High School and ride the free shuttle bus. The shuttle also calls at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Greenbelt Metro and Greenbelt Station Townhouses, running about every 45 minutes. For more information, visit greenbeltlaborday.com.

KING LEAR

By William Shakespeare





Scan QR code or visit GreenbeltArtsCenter.org for tickets!

SHAKESPEARE continued from page 1

With the support of her husband Mark Robinson, who leads set design and lighting, Robinson fostered a space that grew into something much more than just a summer camp.

"Some teens wanted to do a show and came to me to ask if I could make that happen," said Robinson. "I wasn't necessarily thinking it would go on long-term, but the teens have become a family of sorts."

That first summer, TSSI had 10 actors, five technicians and 87 audience members. This past year, participation doubled and the audience grew to 256 people.

Robinson credits the program's growth to the sense of safety and belonging that it offers to its participants. "I respect and accept them for who they are and try to meet them where they are in life. I expect them to treat each other the same, and they do," she said. "I'm proud of the environment we've cultivated."

This year, TSSI performed Shakespeare's As You Like It with three performances in July.

Sophia Jones has been a part of TSSI since 2023 and learned about the Intensive from his time in Robinson's homeschool theater classes. He performed this year as Orlando, one of the male leads.

"For young queer people, this camp is really transformative. It's good to have a space that's just easy to be in, where people accept you for everything," said Jones.

Rowan Kelly is another TSSI member and a part of the tech crew. Kelly learned about the camp through an older member and has been with TSSI since 2023.

"I've made so many friends, everyone is just so nice and welcoming," said Kelly. "... and Kate is so supportive, she understands who we are as a group."

Emiliano Payne is a TSSI member of three years, having played Oliver De Boys this summer. He has been with the Intensive program for three consecutive years and has since aged out but is still involved in Robinson's homeschool classes as a teacher's assistant.

"TSSI has meant finding a place where I can fit in and feel supported, and where I can tap into my skills as a performer," said Payne. "I've gotten really confident being on stage over the years, and I can see my classmates have too. It's been like my home away from home."

Robinson especially wants to thank her dedicated team of volunteers and former students who have made the program possible over the last four years.



From left, Marley Smith, Aaron Robinson and Julia May perform in the TSSI production of As You Like It in July.

Her husband, Mark, has been her "rock," collaborating on set design, lighting and stage combat. She also credits Zelda Chang, Lizzie Gardner, Mecca Lartigue and Hannah Alisse Collins for bringing her vision to life each summer.

For the past four years, TSSI has operated out of the Greenbelt Arts Center, where they've been able to benefit from a rent-free space. Though demand for space at GAC has grown over recent years, Robinson is grateful that they've continued to make space for the camp. Now, however, she is seeking a new "unicorn" venue for next summer – something affordable, large, safe, (and ideally) with a stage and lights.

"More importantly, it needs to be a place that will support and accept my beautifully eclectic group of kids," says Robinson.

Robinson hopes her students carry the spirit of TSSI with them even when they leave the theatrical space. "I hope they take with them that sense of community and support and strive to provide those spaces themselves," Robinson said. "We need a lot more of that."

Ellie Jornlin is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



PUBLIC POLICY VOLUNTEERS



The University of Maryland's Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy, in partnership with the State of Maryland, is looking for volunteers age 50+ to serve as volunteer legislative leaders during the 2025-2026 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly.

The twelve-week classroom training (two days per week) begins on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, and ends on Wednesday, December 3, 2025.

Classes will be held at the University of Maryland Extension, 8930 Stanford Blvd, Suite 25, Columbia, Md., 21045. The volunteer assignment will be in the legislative offices of members of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis.

Participants will serve a minimum of two (2) days per week starting Wednesday, January 14, 2026, and ending Monday, April 13, 2026.

For more information or for an application, contact Wesley Queen at wqueen@umd.edu.



AUGUST 22 – SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Fridays & Saturdays @ 8pm

Sundays August 31 & September 7 @ 2pm
(Facemasks required)

Pay What You Will!
(min \$5)

Wednesday August 27 @ 8pm



GREENBELT ARTS CENTER



CEMETERIES continued from page 1

Walkers in Mexico

At the meeting on Greenbelt’s historic cemeteries, a participant expressed their belief [or thought] that the Walker family of Greenbelt included the notorious William Walker, the adventurer who attempted to set up slave states in Baja California and Sonora, Mexico, and then in Nicaragua, with himself as their ruler. However, this is (apparently) not grounded in fact. William Walker, who was unrelated to the Walkers of Greenbelt, was born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1824. His father, James S. Walker, who had settled in Tennessee, was born in Scotland. William Walker was executed by a firing squad and buried in Trujillo, Honduras, in 1860. More about his life can be learned at [wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Walker_\(filibuster\)](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Walker_(filibuster)).

The person who gave rise to the confusion was one Samuel Hamilton Walker, a military man who was indeed born here at the Walker homestead, Toaping Castle, in 1817. He was a son of Nathan Walker and Elizabeth Thomas Walker. Along with Samuel Colt, he was an inventor of the Walker Colt revolver, which was first produced in 1847. Samuel Walker first volunteered for an 1836 campaign against the Creek Indians in Alabama. A few years later he went to Texas and from 1842 on fought in several conflicts against Mexicans. He was captured and held as a prisoner of war in Mexico City for two years before escaping. He joined the Texas Rangers in 1844, and led a Ranger company under General Zachary Taylor in the Mexican-American War. He was killed in Tlaxcala, Mexico, in 1847 while leading a cavalry charge in that war, and is buried in San Antonio, Texas. To learn more about him go to wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Hamilton_Walker.

Stamp Out Hunger Close to Home

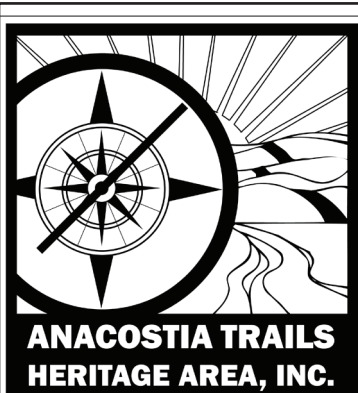
Place food donations on porches by the time listed.

Saturday, August 16 – by 10 a.m., 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, August 24 – by 4 p.m., 11-S Ridge Road, 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road, 8 and 10 Courts Southway, Boxwood Village and for PAL (PORCH at large) members

Sunday, August 24 – by 5 p.m., Lakeside Drive

Contact SpreadRUAK@gmail.com for more information.



ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA, INC.

Explore the History, Culture, Arts and Nature of Prince George’s County!

Curated routes and trail maps: anacostiatrails.org

cemeteries are those of the Turner, Hamilton and Walker families. The burials, explained Gimbal, date from the late 1700s through the early 1800s, from just after the Revolutionary War to just before the Civil War. These families operated tobacco plantations, and all the graveyards are highly likely to include the graves of both family members and persons enslaved by the plantation owners, though none of the latter are clearly marked.

No buildings remain standing in Greenbelt from this period, so those times are represented uniquely by these cemeteries. There are remnants of the foundations of the Walker and Hamilton homes which survive. What is left of the Walker home, named Toaping Castle, originates from a 1757 patent and is on Greenbelt Road; the Hamilton home, known as Hamilton’s Purchase, 1766, was near the Greenbelt Homes, Inc., offices on Hamilton Place.

Preserving these cemeteries for the people of Greenbelt to appreciate now and in the future will be a multiphase project and this is the beginning phase, said Hruby.

Community Use

Gimbal mentioned several ways communities use their historic cemeteries. They may be included in tours of the area for local residents and visitors. Ceremonies may be conducted at them, which can include grave rededications. People may gather to observe holidays such as Juneteenth or Veterans Day. Community groups may organize cleanup days to keep the cemeteries well-tended, or choose to create new monuments to commemorate those buried there, especially those who have no legible markers for their graves.

Project First Phase

The report that will be produced by JMT in this first stage of the project will include detailed photographic and geolo-

cation data, site maps showing clearly demarcated boundaries of each cemetery, recommended improvements such as paths and lighting, gates, fences and other measures for better access and security, and recommendations for what may be done in the next phases of the project. To share their findings with the public, JMT will use multiple technologies. They are exploring the use of story maps, a newly developed method.

In answer to a question, Gimbal explained that in this first phase, there won’t be enough funding or time to use ground-penetrating radar (GPR) to detect hidden graves, but it will be among their recommendations for future work. In their planned surveys of the cemeteries, they will search for depressions in the ground, unmarked stones and plants such as periwinkle that were often planted near grave sites.

Currently, they are researching the families through resources found in the Greenbelt and Prince George’s County Historical Society libraries and the Greenbelt Museum. Family Bibles such as that of the Turners are among the materials being used. They also have the slave schedules of the U.S. Census which include the names of a few enslaved persons, but the majority of the listings include only the ages and genders of those held by the families.

There are few known tombstones found in these cemeteries. One can be seen on display in the Turner cemetery, some in the Walker cemetery (which aren’t original to the time of burial) and a few in the Hamilton cemetery, which were removed due to vandalism and are now stored at the Public Works facility.

Participant Comments

Greenbelt resident Bill Orleans asked whether there are plans to expand any of the cemeteries to include new, modern burials. It

was clarified that the only cemetery with modern burials is the Greenbelt Cemetery, and it is not being included in the work of this project. Only the preservation of the historic cemeteries is being studied.

Lois Rosado commented that there are known burials of enslaved persons at the Walker cemetery; J Davis mentioned that a sorority group had recently held a cleanup day there.

It was regrettably recalled by several in attendance that until the construction of the office buildings in the Golden Triangle, numerous Indigenous graves had been found in the vicinity, which were dug up and from which artifacts were taken over many years. While there is no record of this taking place, several people in attendance recognized tales of grave robbing as part of the oral history of the area.

It was suggested that old-

timers whose memories extend to Greenbelt’s earliest days might have useful and interesting knowledge of the historic cemeteries, but no one was sure whether any such persons still survive.

Any tips regarding elders or others who might be able to contribute knowledge, thoughts, information and ideas on the preservation of the historic cemeteries, may be sent to Gimbal (cgimbal@jmt.com) or alternatively emailed to Hruby (thruby@greenbeltmd.gov) or Young (director@greenbeltmuseum.org), who will pass them along to the team at JMT.

Much information about the early settlers in Greenbelt is available in chapter 1 of the book Greenbelt History of a New Town, 1937-1987, by Mary Lou Williamson, general editor (1987).



Former Fire Chief Tiffany Green Placed on Administrative Leave

by Will Hammann

Former Prince George’s County Fire Chief Tiffany Green was placed on administrative leave August 7 with her pay suspended due to an investigation into hiring practices, the Office of the County Executive told the News Review.

The investigation partly involves allegations that background checks for the recent class of Prince George’s County Fire Department (PGFD) recruits had not been completed. The suspension of her pay is pending the resolution of the investigation.

This comes less than two months after Green transitioned from her five-year role as PGFD fire chief to assistant deputy chief

administrative officer for public safety and homeland security in the office of County Executive Aisha Braveboy.

As fire chief, Green in 2024 removed career fire and rescue personnel from Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, Bowie-Belair and Bunker Hill stations, overcoming litigation against the county by the cities of Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park that was dismissed by a circuit court judge.

Will Hammann is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred August 4-10, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported four domestic incidents, two resulting in arrest. After search efforts, a missing man who had sent suicidal messages was found unharmed.

Carjacking

On August 7 at 8:14 a.m. near 5803 Cherrywood Terrace, a man was sitting in a parking lot inside his 2004 Ford F-250 when a black sedan parked behind him. A man wearing a ski mask and dark clothing approached him, pointed a handgun and told him to get out of the vehicle. The assailant then entered the F-250 and drove away. The second man in the black sedan drove away.

Armed Person Arrested

On August 5 at 4:05 p.m. near 6925 Hanover Parkway, a man and two women were fighting, and the man pulled out a handgun and began firing at one of the women. He fled in a red truck. Officers stopped the truck, arrested the man, and took him to the station for processing, then to Hyattsville Department of Corrections. No one was struck or injured by the shooting.

Assault

On August 4 at 2:29 a.m. near Breezewood Court and Edmonston Terrace, an employee of a car dealership arrived to repossess a vehicle. He blocked the car in and was making arrangements for a tow truck when he was confronted by the alleged owner and a struggle broke out. The assailant fled before officers arrived, and the employee did not require medical attention. The tow truck took the vehicle.

On August 5 at 6:40 p.m. near 7511 Greenbelt Road, two people were arguing while driving. They pulled over into a parking lot, and when officers arrived, one was physically assaulting the other. The assailant was arrested and taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On August 5 at 6:48 p.m. near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Drive, several juveniles were fighting at a bus stop. Police witnessed two juveniles strike the others, and both were arrested.

DUI Arrest

On August 9 at 11:18 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and 62nd Avenue, an officer saw a 2024 Toyota swerving between lanes and driving in the bike lane. After sobriety testing, the driver was arrested for DUI.

Fraud

On August 4 near 9210 Springhill Lane, someone was scammed out of money by a credit repair specialist; near 7701 Greenbelt Road, someone stole a credit card from a store employee's purse and made purchases.

On August 5 near 420 Ridge Road, someone was scammed out

of money for an online college degree.

On August 6 near 442 Ridge Road, new accounts were opened in a woman's name and appeared on her credit report.

Shoplifting and Theft

On August 4 at 5:20 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man filled a suitcase with items and fled through the emergency fire exit. An officer arrested the suspect; he was taken to the police station for processing and then to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On August 5 at 7:12 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, four women filled their bags with items and left without paying.

On August 6 at 3:20 p.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, a man stole seven bundles of paper towels.

On August 7 at 9:15 a.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man stole items; officers arrested him and gave him a criminal citation for theft.

On August 7 at 8:05 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman left the store with a shopping cart of stolen items.

On August 8 at 8:44 a.m. near 7619 Greenbelt Road, a man stole a shirt and a bag of chips. Officers found him, and he admitted to taking the items. He was given a criminal citation for theft and banned.

On August 9 at 7:09 p.m. near 145 Westway, a package was delivered, but the resident was away on vacation. The package sat outside the door but a woman stole it.

Trespassing Arrest

On August 8 at 2:41 a.m. near 9170 Edmonston Road, an intoxicated man was knocking on doors. Officers asked him to leave multiple times, but he refused and began making threats toward the officers; he was arrested and charged with trespassing.

Vandalism

On August 6 at 11:50 a.m. near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive, two hotel guests trashed their room; the hotel will file charges for the damage.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Four vehicles were stolen: on August 7 near 7807 Mandan Road, a 2022 Honda Pilot; on August 9 near 5915 Cherrywood Terrace, a brown 2012 Kia Rio (Md. 2GN1682), and near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a silver Mercedes-Benz S550 (Md. 7GB8413) (with the key in it); and on August 10 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, a black 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee (D.C. JE6598).

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On August 4 near 7724 Hanover Parkway, a Hyundai Santa Fe had a broken door and igni-

tion damage.

Stolen Vehicle Recovered

On August 4 near 8251 Canning Terrace, a 2020 Ford Edge was recovered by D.C. Police.

Theft from Auto

All four wheels were stolen from three Hondas: August 8 from a 2025 Civic near 7929 Mandan Road and from a 2025 Accord near 6009 Springhill Drive; and August 10 from a Civic near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive.

On August 5 near 8223 Canning Terrace, a disability placard was stolen; on August 5 near 14 Ridge Road, a front license plate (Va. TLY5958); and August 9 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a rear plate.

On August 6 near 4 Gardenway, a man provided necessary information for a theft from auto that occurred at the end of July: items were stolen from his three work trucks, while parked in the lot leading to the overpass.

On August 8 near 7200 Hanover Drive, someone broke a window of a rental vehicle and stole items.

On August 10 near 7810 Walker Drive, a 2021 Chevrolet Silverado's window was broken, and items were missing.

Vandalism to Auto

On August 4 near 7823 Mandan Road, the door handles of a Kia Sorento were broken off.

On August 8 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, a Ford F-150 had a window damaged; the owner was unsure if anything was missing.

On August 8 at 10:55 a.m. near 9166 Edmonston Road, someone set fire to a 2004 Cadillac Escalade.

Police Search for Suspect Who Fled Murder Scene on Bicycle

The Prince George's County Police Department Homicide Unit is asking for the community's assistance in identifying the suspect wanted for the recent fatal shooting of 33-year-old William Denard Askew of Greenbelt (see the August 7 issue). The suspect arrived and then fled the scene of the shooting on a bicycle. A reward of up to \$25,000 is being offered for information leading to an arrest and indictment in this case.

On July 25 at approximately 10:20 p.m. officers responded to a shooting in the 13200 block of Laurel Bowie Road in the unincorporated section of Laurel. Officers located Askew in the roadway near the shooting scene

suffering from gunshot wound(s). He died on the scene.

Detectives are working to determine a motive for the murder.

County Police released video footage of the suspect at the gas station beside where Askew was found. In it the person can be seen wearing dark clothing, including a black hoodie with the hood pulled up and riding a blue bicycle. View the video here: <https://tinyurl.com/4chzj886>.

Anyone with information on the suspect or the bicycle may call 301-516-2512 or contact Crime Solvers online at pgrimesolvers.com. You can remain anonymous. Refer to case number 25-0040942.

USDA Reorganization Plan Seeks Stakeholder Feedback

On August 1, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins announced the opening of a 30-day public comment period for stakeholders to provide feedback on the department's reorganization plan, which includes the closure of Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the George Washington Carver Center.

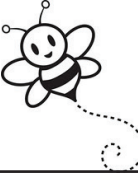
"We value your perspective as we work to ensure that USDA is best positioned to serve America's farmers, ranchers, producers and rural communities," said Rollins. "President Trump made clear his second term would include relocating the sprawling federal bureaucracy to locations outside the National Capital Region," Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden said in his Capitol Hill testimony on July 30, adding that the plan "right-sizes the USDA footprint"

and maintains the department "within the bounds of its available financial resources." In the reorganization proposal approximately 2,600 Washington, D.C., area positions will be moved to five regional hubs: Raleigh, N.C.; Kansas City, Mo.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Fort Collins, Colo.; and Salt Lake City, Utah (see the July 31 issue of the News Review).

How to Submit Comments

Stakeholders, including USDA employees, members of Congress and agricultural and nutrition partners, are encouraged to provide feedback by emailing reorganization@usda.gov. The comment period is open through August 26.

Information for this article was drawn from a USDA press release.



BARC continued from page 7

areas, especially in the new hubs, will be significantly more expensive, and the delays would prevent the critical work of supporting the farmers and rural America.

c) The State of Maryland has been promoted by USDA as being "a suitable environment for agricultural commodities" and "having almost every fruit and vegetable in the census," positioning an agricultural research center in Maryland to do research that supports every community in the U.S., specifically the areas for farmers (usda.gov/about-usda/news/blog/maryland-agriculture-has-it-all).

3) SAVE BARC is having a follow-up meeting (after the one on July 26) via Zoom on Saturday, August 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. Join as we set up small, action-focused groups. If we all do a little, we can accomplish a lot.

To Join the Zoom Meeting

tinyurl.com/bdfy7ux7
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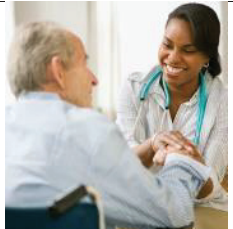
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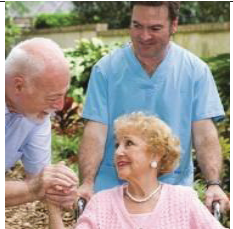
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Letters to the Editor continued from p.2

important details and interesting quotes about topics I'm guessing were not previously familiar to them.

It is very gratifying to see talented young people like these entering the beleaguered – yet critical – journalism profession. The opportunity to report on important civic issues in lengthy pieces like these is a great learning experience for students, and is a significant help to our often overstretched News Review staff. May mutually beneficial ties between the News Review and Philip Merrill College of Journalism persist for many years to come.

L.R. Tokarz

Concerned

As a member of the Climate Justice Wing's (CJW) Data Center Study Group (mdlegislative.com/climate-justice-wing), I am very concerned about our climate and impacts from data centers that big tech and land developers are proposing for the county. Prince George's County had three Park and Planning meetings to seek input from communities. I attended two of these meetings, North and Central County, with numerous residents attending. The county council has also created a Data Center Task Force, made up heavily of construction, developer and utility representatives and only three people who are looking out for residents. As of now, almost no serious review of the impacts of data centers has been done nor regulations put in place to control them. This includes work to date by and for the Task Force.

Like the state of Maryland, the county is struggling to bring in more revenue. It and the governor think data centers will generate revenue and high paying jobs. Our study group found the revenue claim questionable but the impacts to climate and energy are certain, including more flooding, air and water pollution, less water availability and at times droughts, lowering aquifers. Mitigation costs will add to the budget problems. As it stands, ratepayers are paying to build transmission lines and grid upgrades. More fossil fuels will be needed for energy,

leading to more greenhouse gases. Many questions are unaddressed regarding data centers' impacts, and the county aims to implement a plan in November.

This is an invitation to attend the next in-person meeting of the Task Force on Wednesday, September 10 at 11 a.m. at 1616 McCormick Drive, Largo. While the public can't participate in these meetings, they can observe, and it is important for the Task Force to know "we are watching."

I'd like to request that our District 4 and two at-large county council members provide periodic updates on these meetings in their constituent communications. Videos from the May 14, June 11 and July 9 Task Force meetings can be viewed at pgccouncil.us/1051/Qualified-Data-Center-Task-Force#cc5f8c90dc-b4cb-431b-90ee-10648f8df655.

Kathy Bartolomeo

Thanks for Help And Not Laughing

On Thursday, August 7, I stopped by the Co-op to pick up some salad dressing – didn't bother with a bag as I only had a couple of items. As I got into my car, my ever-clumsy fingers fumbled and the cylindrical glass bottle of dressing dropped onto the asphalt (miraculously not breaking), rolling under a wide-beamed orange and brown Honda Element next to me. Stopping exactly in the middle. Out of reach.

Caramba and drat! I lay down on my face in the parking lot and reached for it, but it was a no-go for a non-gibbon. I flung my shoulder bag at it (holding the strap, I note, not being a complete idiot) to knock it to roll out the other side (and probably under the next car). No dice (bad angle).

Thinking if I stayed down there another minute someone would call an ambulance (an-

cient crone on face in parking lot, etc.), I stood up and thought. What I need is a pole or a tree branch!

Inspiration struck: I walked across the parking lot to the ever-open doorway of Greenbelt Auto and Truck. Bound to have poles.

And indeed they did. A very pleasant young man refrained from laughing his socks off when

I explained my predicament and lent me a pole. In a jiffy, I had that dressing out from under. I returned the pole and got a warm but amused smile from my benefactor, who wished me a very pleasant day.

Thank you Greenbelt Auto and Truck for rescuing a maiden in distress.

Cathie Meetre



GIESE continued from page 4

had remained unmarried; however, he later assumed a parental role to his stepdaughters, Marci Milligan and Mickey Sheppard, demonstrating care and commitment in his family relationships. They formed a close family bond, getting together for holidays and other special occasions.

He is survived by his stepdaughters, Marci Milligan (Dan) and Michelle (Mickey) Sheppard (Harold); four grandchildren: Kayla Sheppard, Siobhann Cemper (Kirk), Kieran Milligan (Kim), Colin Milligan (Beth); and five great-grandchildren, Declan and Liam Cemper, Kiera, Maeve and Conor Milligan. He was preceded in death by his wife Bernina McGee Giese, his parents Jerome and Grace Giese and brother Robert.

Giese's Celebration of Life service will be held at the Green-

belt Community Church on Friday, September 5 (his birthday) at 11 a.m. Following the service, there will be a luncheon held at the Greenbelt Fire Station. On Saturday, September 6 at 2 p.m., in the auditorium at Collington Life Care Community in Mitchellville, there will be an ice cream sundae bar, where people can make their own sundaes in his honor; he loved ice-cream!



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Greenbelters of All Ages Contribute to Mosaic Sculpture

by Ellie Jornlin

Braden Field will soon have a new landmark, a 7-foot tall, rainbow-colored sculpture of a cartwheeling figure. It is entitled Joy, a vibrant public art installation celebrating movement, freedom and community connection.

The creation of Joy is led by Baltimore-based Empact Art, while Greenbelt community members have assisted by creating colorful mosaic tiles that will cover the surface of the sculpture. These were crafted during workshops with the Creative Kids Club, Camp YOGO, the Greenbelt Golden Age Club and two Artful Afternoon sessions.

“We are using handmade ceramic pieces that are hand-stamped and glazed by the community. We wanted the mosaic to be smooth, touchable and climbable,” said Empact Art Co-Founder and Director Ali Mirsky. “Each piece of clay passes through five different hands, symbolizing the hundreds of people who will have contributed to the creation of Joy.

The sculpture is intended to convey the joy of play and the diversity of the Greenbelt community. It will be dedicated to the memory of Roy S. Braden, for whom the complex was named, according to Greenbelt Arts Supervisor Nicole DeWald.

“Braden was Greenbelt’s first town manager, and a great champion of recreation opportunities as an important part of a vibrant community life,” said DeWald.

Joy will be located at the south end of the tennis courts at the main entrance to Braden Field and behind the Youth Center. Its location is intended for the sculpture to be seen and enjoyed by everyone in the community.

“We hope that viewers will find that the piece uplifts their spirits, maybe even inspiring some folks to turn a cartwheel of their own!” said DeWald.

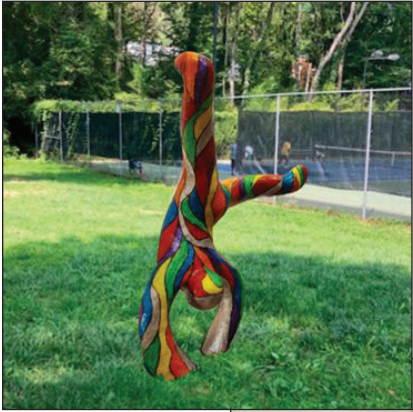
Joy is set to be completed in late fall 2025 or early spring 2026. Community members can get involved by participating in upcoming mosaic workshops in the fall. Sign up for the city’s ARTFANS e-newsletter at the top of the webpage greenbeltmd.gov/arts to be notified when details are announced.

Ellie Jornlin is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



On August 6 Greenbelt senior citizens lent their hands to the mosaic cartwheel sculpture that is a community work in progress, stamping some ceramic pieces and triple-painting others with bright colors.

- Photos by Cathie Brannan



An artist's rendering of the sculpture, to be entitled Joy

PHOTO COURTESY EMPACT ART



Councilmember Kristen Weaver, left, and artist Ali Mirsky

- Photos by Nick Hall

D’annccio stamps shapes out of clay.

Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Aims to Broaden Accessibility

by Joan Estenson

This year’s Greenbelt Labor Day Festival will truly be a FestiveALL, with new features to make it possible for people of all ages and abilities, including those who might not otherwise be able to enjoy the Festival, to participate.

The planning for these new features began when Abby Crowley asked for ideas to improve accessibility on Facebook. The people who made suggestions, all of whom had personal or professional experience with disabilities, were invited to be part of an ad hoc committee. The core members of this committee were Grace Shippis, Ana Sorto-Watson, Melanie Kalos and Gina Oliva, with assistance from Priya Gardner Lemieux, among others.

Crowley said when she brought this idea to the whole committee, “I was surprised how excited they were.”

Transport to the Festival

For wheelchair users only, the Labor Day Committee will provide free transportation on a Greenbelt Connection bus with a wheelchair lift. Those needing a ride to the Festival on Friday, Saturday and Sunday can make a reservation with the Greenbelt Connection at 301-474-4100 at least 24 hours in advance. “Let them know that you need a chair lift, when you would like to be picked up and when you want to go home,” said Crowley.

Drop-off spots for the Festival will be provided and clearly marked.

There will be a free shuttle bus from satellite parking lots including Greenbelt Elementary, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, and Springhill Lake Recreation Center, so there is no need to search for a parking place. The shuttle will also serve the Greenbelt Station community, Greenbelt Metro Station, and Green Ridge House.

On the Grounds

Greenbelt Police will take steps to ensure that there will be unfettered access to curb cuts for



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Lore Rosenthal provides sign language interpretation at the Opening Ceremonies in 2023.



LOGO BY AMY KNESEL

those who need them, including those with strollers or those using walkers or wheelchairs.

Additional Features

American Sign Language interpretation will be available for the opening ceremonies, the Saturday Information Day and the Parade. For Information Day, the interpreter will be in front of the New Deal Café from 10 a.m. to noon. For the Parade, find the interpreter next to the reviewing stand.

For those who need a cool and quiet spot, a sensory room will be available in Room 103 of the Community Center. Drop by for a respite from the festivities.

Benches will be provided by the carnival for parents and grandparents to wait and watch their children having fun on the rides, or for anyone who needs a place to sit and rest.

Crowley said, “It is really cool to be a community on the forefront of this kind of planning. We are motivated to do it to allow more people to partake of this wonderful event that we have every year in Greenbelt.” Email greenbeltlaborday@gmail.com with questions.

Greenbelters Travel



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH SCHECHTER

From right, siblings Lisette and Tarn Sanders and their cousin Normandy Sanders, on a gondola headed up to Glenwood Adventure Caverns Park in Glenwood Springs, Colorado

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